(f) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Certain events like the outbreak of the Gulf war and disturbed conditions in some parts of the country had affected the first few months of the Visit India Year. However, there has been a turn-around in tourist arrivals since May, 1991.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The measures to boost tourism in the country during 1992 would include continued improvement of tourist facilities, opening up of new areas and wider publicity of tourist attractions.

(e) and (f) A review of the tourism policy has been initiated and it would be finalised in consultation with the State Governments and other agencies.

Agitation by engineers of the Indian Airlines

*245. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the engineers of Indian Airlines were agitating in October this year to press for their demands, the pilots and other highly paid categories of staff also joined hands with them pressing for their own demands;

(b) if so, what were the demands of these categories of employees; and

(c) what was Government's stand in respect of each of them and how the issues were resolved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) While the Aircraft Maintenance Engineers of Indian Airlines had resorted to a 'go slow' in the first week of October, 1991 on the issue of parity in pay with Aircraft Maintenance Engineers of Air India, some pilots reported sick on the 3rd/4th November, 1991 in protest against transfer of 8 pilots from Delhi and Bombay to Calcutta.

(c) The issue of parity in pay scales of Engineers has been referred to the National Industrial Tribunal. As regards transfer of pilots to Calcutta the management of Indian Airlines will follow the usual transfer policy in such cases.

लिग्नो-बिटुमिनस भण्डारों का गैसीकरण

*247. श्री रामसिंह राठवा : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने गुजरात में 800 मीटर से अधिक गहराई वाले लिग्नो-बिटुमिनस भण्डारों की गैसीकरण परियोजना आरम्भ कर दी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) और (ख) तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग, मेहसाना (गुजरात) में इन-सीटू गैसीकरण पर एक पायलट अनुसंधान एवं विकास परियोजना के साथ एक मॉडल अभिकरण के रूप में कार्य कर रहा है। अभी तक इस संबंध में किए गए अनुसंधान एवं विकास कार्य को नीचे दर्शाया गया है :—

1. तकनीकी अध्ययन रिपोर्टों को तैयार किया जाना ;
2. दो सूचना कुंओं की ड्रिलिंग ;
3. भू-सर्भिक मॉडल तैयार किए जाने के लिए पायलट क्षेत्र का 3 डी भू-कंपीय सर्वेक्षण ;

4. सूचना कुंओं से संग्रहण किए गए चट्टान तथा कोयले के नमूनों की प्रयोगशाला में जांच ;

5. पृष्ठभूमि प्रि-टेस्ट पैरामीटरों को प्राप्त किए जाने के लिए ध्वनिक अध्ययनों को शुरू किया जाना ;

6. अनुसंधान एवं विकास पायलट परियोजना के लिए अपेक्षित सतही सुविधाओं तथा बड़े उपकरणों का विनिर्दिष्टीकरण ।

U.S. proposal for a Nuclear Free Sub-continent

*248. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Secretary of State for International Security had forwarded certain proposals for Inlo-Pak bilateral understandig on a nuclear weapon free sub-continent;

(b) if so, whether India reacted favouraby to such proposals as widely reported in the Press;

(c) what is the manner in which these proposals differ substantially from the Pak-Bangladesh Resolution on nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, which was opposed by India but supported by the Soviet Union; and

(d) whether India's different approach to the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union was guided in any way by India's expectations of economic assistance from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Mr. Bartholomew during his visit to Delhi last month made certain suggestions relating to nuclear and security issues in South Asia. These relate to confidence building measures in the nuclear and conventional field and not to the issue of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia. No decision has been taken on the matter and our position will continue to conform to India's national interests.

Improvement of National Highways in Karnataka

*249. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a what are the norms set for declaring existing highways as national highways;

(b) what is the length of national highways in kilometres, statewise;

(c) what are the details of the proposals received from Karnataka for taking up national highways; and

(d) what efforts have been made by the Central Government to improve the national highway position in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The National Highways are declared keeping in view the following guideines/norms besides the availability of resuorces, recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC), *inter se* priorities attached to each individual road on an all India basis, proximity of other National Highways and various proposals received from the State Governments:—

(i) roads which run through the length and breadth of the country;

(ii) roads connecting adjacent countries;

(iii) roads connecting State capitals;

(iv) roads connecting major Ports and important industrial or tourist centres;